

**State Advisory Committee (SAC)
for Children with Disabilities
NH Department Of Education
Room 15
April 1, 2015
4:30pm-7:00pm**

Meeting Minutes

Attended: SAC Members Bonnie Dunham, Maureen Tracey, Lisa Beaudion, Ellen Boudreau, Karen Rosenberg, Audrey Burke, Mackenzie Burke, Janet Reed, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Kerri Lynn Kimner, Eileen Mullen, Donna Curtin, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Linda Thistle-Elliot, Joan Holleran, Janet Reed, Jack Balcolm

Guest(s): Santina Thibedeau (Administrator, Bureau of Special Education,) Carolyn Blasko (Parent)

Agenda I: Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Public Comment, Nominations

- Bonnie began the meeting at approximately 4:35pm
- Attendees introduced themselves and their role on SAC
- The House has appointed its two (2) representatives to SAC: Mary Heath and Jack Balcolm, they join Senators Nancy Stiles and Molly Kelly as the General court's representatives.
- Bonnie noted that it is challenging to find time for subcommittees to report out, she is asking that future requests for presentations come from subcommittees and related to identified priorities.
- Approval of April Minutes
 - Candace presented on "unmet needs of children of absent parents." Change incarcerated to absent.
 - Candace made a motion to approve the April Minutes with the above correction, Kestrel seconded. 6 yes and 12 abstentions. Motion passed.
- There were no public comments.

Agenda II: Updates from SAC Liaisons and Legislative Update

- Legislative update ~ Bonnie's list of bills retain by the House Education Committee were included in the handouts
 - Bonnie and Maureen provided input on behalf of SAC on the initial proposal for the Restraint & Seclusion Rules at the State Board public hearing last month.
 - Bonnie also testified as a private individual on the mixed school bus, distributed a copy of her testimony to member for review.
- Significant cuts have been proposed to DD Services, which may reinstate the wait period for Area Agency Services; will affect young people with disabilities leaving high school who have gained knowledge and skills to prepare them for the transition from high school to the adult world, skills which can be lost if they have to spend time on a wait list. Would SAC like to take a position opposing any cuts that would result in youth with disabilities completing high school only to transition to a wait list?

Motion:

Lisa Beaudion made a motion SAC provide public comment to NH Senate to restore full funding to the DHHS wait list. Seconded by seconded by Candace Cole-McCrea; all in favor.

Motion:

Bonnie Dunham made a motion to comment publicly to the Senate to increase Special Education by two hundred fifty thousand, while simultaneously, the Commissioner of Education dedicates to multi-tiered system in the State. Jack Balcom seconded.

Discussion as multi-tiered system is not just a special education initiative; PBIS is a general and special education.

Susan Marcotte-Jenkins recommended amending the motion to remove *simultaneously*. Karen Rosenberg seconded; all in favor.

Agenda III: Bureau Updates

Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education provided updates:

- The New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators (NHASEA) held their Annual Education Conference on March 12th and 14th. Melody Musgrove of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) provided the opening remarks; it was nice to see Melody in front of special education directors and speaking about the good things happening in New Hampshire.
- Every year States receive a mark; NH is on top, meets requirements, the Bureau reaches out for resources, NH has written a grant on CEDDAR ~ to help us look at teacher credentialing for special education.
- Melody spoke about IDEA and where it is going, don't think is going anywhere until ESEA is reauthorized.
- Under ESEA they have a section to waive certain requirements for two (2) years; the Department has reapplied for the waiver, was due March 31st.
- The Bureau submitted the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) on March 31st; will be monitored throughout the summer – how we are going to evaluate.

Note:

Lisa Beaudion ~ NH Lend is working on the reauthorization of ESEA, does anyone have an interest in reviewing. Lisa to send her documentation to Barbara Raymond and Barbara will forward to SAC members

Agenda IV: Old Business, including: Report from subcommittee considering a response to the Commissioner's letter re: SAC's recommendations on the Full Implementation of IEPs

Karen Rosenberg provided feedback on the subcommittee recommendations

- Subcommittee concerns about implementation of IEPs and not being fully implemented and recommendations around personnel shortages. Recommendations around multi-tiered systems of support (April 2014) (See SAC Annual Report on SAC website for information).
- Commissioner has asked for more specificity; request to Commissioner to convene a stakeholder group to school district to fill in these gaps (see handouts).
- Addressing personnel shortages – recommendations made (see handout).

Recommendation #1 ~ Provide school districts with resources for developing contracts for deploying temporary professional staff

Bonnie Dunham made a motion that a small subcommittee bring this up to the Commissioner to hear what SAC recommends. Candace Cole-McCrea seconded; all in favor.

Recommendation #2 ~ Implement the 2011 HB 611 Commission recommendations for addressing personnel shortage

Bonnie Dunham made a motion that the same small subcommittee meet with the Commissioner with the same recommendations. Candace Cole-McCrea seconded; all in favor.

Recommendation #3 ~ Provide online guidance to IEP teams on issues related implementing IEP services

Candace Cole-McCrea made a motion to recommend clarifying website guidance on recommendation #3. Kerri Lynn Kimner seconded; all in favor.

Recommendation #4 ~ Take additional steps when a failure to implement IEP services is found to be a systemic issue.

Sue Marcotte-Jenkins made a motion for the subcommittee to inquire how the NHDOE already meeting the original recommendation. Janet Reed seconded, all in favor.

Recommendation #5 ~ Recommendation regarding Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Bonnie Dunham made a motion to thank the Commissioner for all the efforts accomplished and staff. How can the Commissioner take a leadership role in the State of NH for these efforts to be sustained throughout the State; expand leadership to become a state-wide initiative; broaden out of special education. Ellen Boudreau seconded, all in favor.

Agenda V:

N/A

Agenda VI: Subcommittees meet

N/A

Agenda VII: Reports from Subcommittees, with Group Input/Discussion

N/A

Agenda VIII: New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment

- Audrey Burke ~ Partnering with The International Dyslexia Association ~ better understanding dyslexia. Movie Screening: "Dyslexia: The Movie" Nashua Community College, Thursday, April 16, 2015, 7pm-9pm.
- Thursday, April 2nd is National Autism Day.

Agenda VIII: Adjourn – next meeting May 6, 2015

Reminder: June 3, 2015 the last meeting for the year ~ at the June meeting we elect a new chair for the following year

- Kerri Lynn Kimner made a motion to Adjourn, motion was seconded Mackenzie Burke; all in favor, with exception of the following (left early): Maureen Tracey, Lisa Beaudion, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.